

## **Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project**

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani  
Monica Simon

DATE: March 15, 2002

RE: Youthful Public Defender Clients with Previous Human Services

The attached graphs and tables provide an overview of the findings of analyses conducted in response to a request for information from Anna Saxman, Deputy Defender General, in Vermont's Office of the Defender General. She is working on a grant proposal that would support identification of and appropriate services for young people with special needs who are involved in the criminal justice system. The Defender General's staff had perceived an increasing presence on their caseloads of young people with a history of SRS (child protection and juvenile justice), special education, developmental, and mental health services, but had little hard data to support this observation. Their screening of all public defender clients tended to support the observation, but was not specifically looking at youth. This analysis is designed to empirically test this perception by viewing Vermont's child serving programs from the perspective of the criminal justice agency in an attempt to understand the level of need for human services in the criminal justice agency.

The analysis involved determining the number of people who were on the Defender General's FY2000 delinquency or criminal caseload who were also on the SRS, special education, or Developmental and Mental Health Services caseload during FY1996 through FY2000. The SRS data set includes all individuals on the SRS caseload during that time period. The special education data set includes all students on an Individualized Educational Plan, regardless of disability, during that time period. The DDMHS data set includes all young people served by a community provider, regardless of diagnosis or program assignment, during that time period. Because these data sets do not share person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of recipients of public defender services who had also been on the caseload of one of the three children's services programs. Results are reported here for individuals who were 11 to 21 years of age during FY2000.

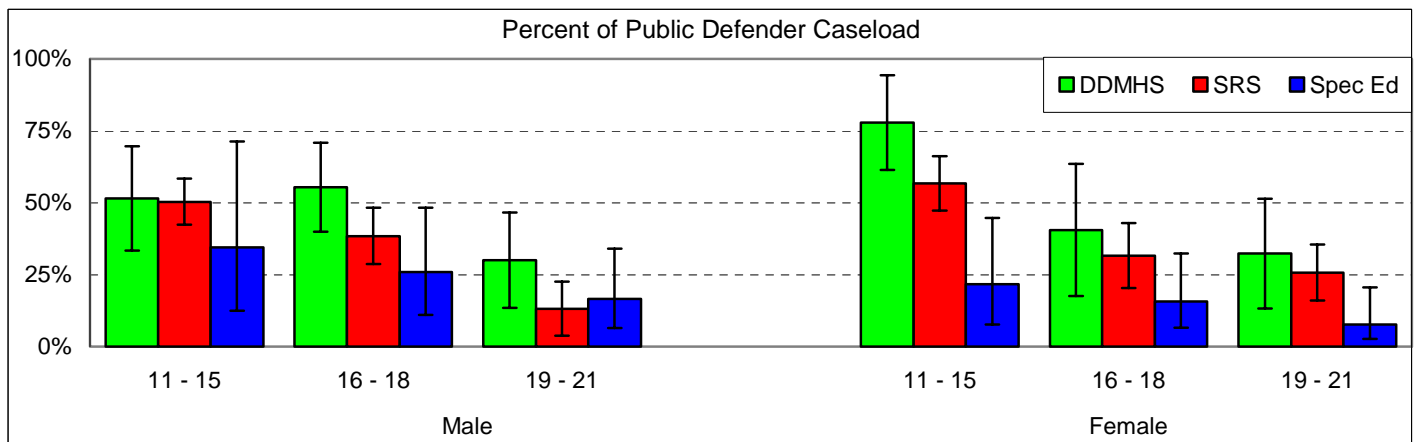
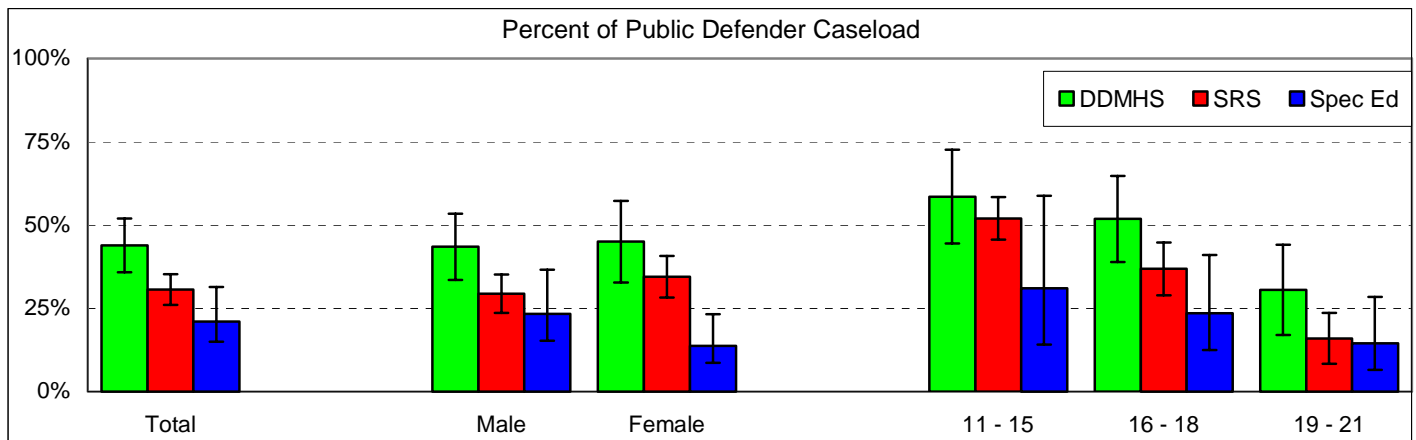
As you will see, a substantial number of young people on the defender general caseload had received services from one of Vermont's child serving agencies. The largest number, 44% of defender general clients, had received DDMHS services; 31% had received SRS services; and 21% had received special education services. Boys and girls on the public defender caseload were equally likely to have received mental health services. Girls on the public defender

caseload were more likely than boys to have received SRS services, but boys on the public defender caseload were more likely than girls to have received special education services.

The likelihood that public defender clients had received services from one of these child serving agencies tended to be greatest for individuals in our youngest age group and tended to decrease with increasing age.

This analysis views the relationship between the caseloads of criminal justice and child serving agencies from a different perspective than is usually adopted by the Performance Indicator Project. Our usual approach is to report the caseload overlap as a percent of the total caseload of the child-serving agency and think of the result as a measure of treatment outcome. In this analysis, we calculated the caseload overlap as a percent of the criminal justice caseload and are thinking about the result as a measure of need for human services in the criminal justice system. We look forward to your learning how you think about these findings and to your suggestions for further analysis to [pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us) or call 802-241-2638.

# FY 2000 Public Defender Clients with FY 1996 - 2000 DDMHS, Social Rehabilitation Services, or Special Education Services



	Public Defender Caseload... FY 2000	Served During FY 1996 - 2000					
		...and DDMHS		...and SRS		...and Special Education	
		# Served	% of Pub. Def.	# Served	% of Pub. Def.	# Served	% of Pub. Def.
Total	3,281 ± 79	1,440 ± 263	44% ± 8%	1,006 ± 150	31% ± 5%	691 ± 340	21% ( 15% - 31% )
Male	2,502 ± 77	1,089 ± 246	44% ± 10%	737 ± 142	29% ± 6%	584 ± 331	23% ( 15% - 36% )
Female	780 ± 21	351 ± 95	45% ± 12%	269 ± 48	35% ± 6%	107 ± 75	14% ( 9% - 24% )
11 - 15	617 ± 20	361 ± 86	59% ± 14%	321 ± 38	52% ± 6%	192 ± 171	31% ( 14% - 59% )
16 - 18	1,239 ± 50	643 ± 158	52% ± 13%	457 ± 96	37% ± 8%	291 ± 217	23% ( 12% - 41% )
19 - 21	1,425 ± 58	436 ± 192	31% ± 14%	228 ± 108	16% ± 8%	208 ± 198	15% ( 7% - 29% )
Male							
11 - 15	453 ± 19	233 ± 82	52% ± 18%	228 ± 35	50% ± 8%	156 ± 167	34% ( 12% - 71% )
16 - 18	943 ± 48	523 ± 143	55% ± 15%	363 ± 90	38% ± 10%	245 ± 211	26% ( 11% - 48% )
19 - 21	1,106 ± 57	333 ± 182	30% ± 17%	146 ± 104	13% ± 9%	183 ± 193	17% ( 7% - 35% )
Female							
11 - 15	164 ± 7	128 ± 26	78% ± 16%	93 ± 15	57% ± 9%	36 ± 38	22% ( 8% - 45% )
16 - 18	296 ± 13	120 ± 68	41% ± 23%	94 ± 33	32% ± 11%	46 ± 49	16% ( 7% - 33% )
19 - 21	319 ± 14	103 ± 61	32% ± 19%	82 ± 31	26% ± 10%	25 ± 41	8% ( 3% - 21% )

Analysis conducted by the Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project is based on data provided by Vermont's DDMHS designated agencies, the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Education, and the Office of the Defender General. Analysis includes youth aged 11 - 21 in FY 2000 served by any DDMHS program, on SRS caseload, or an Individual Education Plan. Because these databases do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to provide estimates of the unduplicated number of people across data sets (with 95% confidence intervals). Asymmetric confidence intervals are reported for special education because values approach zero.